

**JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION  
MODELS FOR CHANGE INITIATIVE: ILLINOIS**

**COMMUNITY -BASED ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION AND  
SECURE CONFINEMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS APPLICATION FORM**

**BACKGROUND**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has launched a reform effort called *Models For Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice (MFC)* to support and assist states in implementing changes and improvements that reflect the principles of a model juvenile justice system. The Foundation has developed a framework for a model juvenile justice system grounded in eight principles of widely- shared and firmly held values: fundamental fairness, recognition of juvenile-adult differences, recognition of individual differences, recognition of potential, safety, personal responsibility, community responsibility and system responsibility.

Against this philosophical backdrop, the Illinois Models for Change project has chosen to focus on three targeted areas for improvement: community-based alternatives to detention and secure confinement, juvenile court jurisdiction, and disproportionate minority contact.

**This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks applications from government and/or nongovernmental entities in connection with MFC's goal of promoting community-based alternatives as a way of reducing secure confinement and improving outcomes for youth in the Illinois juvenile justice system.**

Specifically, the RFP solicits applications from demonstration sites that will devise an effective local governance structure for the delivery of a continuum of community-based services and sanctions to youth within their communities. The MFC project will select sites that develop models that can be replicated in other jurisdictions in Illinois and nationally.

*Throughout the application process, consultants from Illinois and the MacArthur Foundation's National Resource Bank will be available to work with applicants. Applications are due on or before January 30, 2006 and should not exceed 6 pages in length.*

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of the project is to create a system that helps youth lead productive lives through increased use of community-based alternatives at multiple points of contact in the juvenile justice system, thereby decreasing over-reliance on detention and secure confinement and supporting positive outcomes for youth. This will be accomplished by facilitating the development of policy and program improvements to better serve youth in their own communities without compromising the safety of the community and without targeting youth and families whose needs are more appropriately met outside the juvenile justice system.

**Primary Objective:** The primary objective is for grantees to develop local governance structures that bring together system and community stakeholders to design, implement, and operate an integrated continuum of community-based services. Sites first will: 1) analyze how services/sanctions are currently provided within their communities, including who makes decisions and how services/sanctions are funded; and 2) identify barriers to the delivery of such services and sanctions, including any disincentives for their use at the community level. System and community stakeholders will then work together to select a local governance structure that can design policies and programs to address the needs of youth within the site and that can address barriers and disincentives more effectively. Such policies and programs should define, promote and measure positive outcomes for youth.

**Specific objectives** of this initiative include the following:

- Identify available evidence-based services within their communities as well as services gaps and obstacles to implementing a full spectrum of community-based alternatives to detention and secure confinement.
- Produce specific documentation on effective uses of community-based alternatives that result in greater numbers of youth served in the community and lower numbers in detention and confinement.
- Produce documentation of improved outcomes for youth as shown through lower rates of recidivism and higher rates of connectivity to prosocial activities (*i.e.* school attendance, employment, spiritual activities, recreational activities, ties to family or other role models).
- Allow selected sites to focus on populations of youth who are currently underserved or inappropriately served in the juvenile justice system - *i.e.* those with mental health problems and dually involved youth.
- Promote the use of balanced and restorative justice practices by community-based service providers as well as in the community at large. Such practices should include methods that both enhance youth accountability and competency and address the needs of the victim and the community.

### Additional Opportunities for Community-Based Services:

The Foundation has a special interest in improving the lives of especially vulnerable youth in the juvenile justice system. Youth with mental health disorders and youth who are dually involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are faced with particular problems that often lead to increased use of detention and confinement and require the attention of multiple systems to meet their needs through community-based services. To this end, the Foundation has identified national entities that can guide sites through a process to improve collaborative practice and policy.

- # Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: Sites that elect to address the needs of youth with mental health disorders will work with the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice ([www.ncmhjj.com](http://www.ncmhjj.com)), which has developed a process for assisting juvenile justice and mental health systems to work cooperatively to meet the needs of youth. The strategy for the mental health/juvenile justice coordination is the Comprehensive Systems Change Initiative (CSCI). CSCI brings together decision-makers from the juvenile justice and mental health systems and helps them devise an effective strategy to establish a system with sufficient capacity, assessment capability and program variety to fully address the mental health needs of youth at every stage of the juvenile justice processing. CSCI was developed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) and Policy Research Associates as part of a joint MacArthur grant to the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. The goal is to develop policies and programs to better serve youth with mental health disorders in the juvenile justice system.
- # Dually Involved Youth: Juvenile Justice and Child Abuse/Neglect: Sites that elect to address the needs of dually involved youth (those involved in both the juvenile justice and the child welfare systems) will work with the Child Welfare League of America ([www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)) to design and implement a project that promotes closer alignment between child welfare and juvenile justice. The goals of the process include promoting increased cooperation, coordination, and integration at the administrative and service delivery levels for the benefit of children and families within the purview of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Using a comprehensive, strategic planning process that embraces and values inclusion of youth, families, and broad based youth service entities, the process aims to achieve and institutionalize greater multi-system coordination and integration to improve outcomes for dually involved youth.

### Working with the Models for Change Project

The Models for Change project utilizes the expertise of Illinois grantees as well as National Resource Bank members. Successful applicants will be expected to

work cooperatively with project partners to document and evaluate the process, including the National Center on Juvenile Justice ([www.ncjj.org](http://www.ncjj.org)) and the Illinois Models for Change lead entity, Loyola University Chicago Civitas ChildLaw Center ([www.childlaw-center@luc.edu](mailto:www.childlaw-center@luc.edu)).

### **Application Information**

Two - four Illinois grants in the amount up to \$50,000 each per year for two years will be made. Applications must reflect a strong commitment to community-based alternatives as a means of serving children in the juvenile justice system as well as evidence that the applicant has experience in the utilization of community-based alternatives. **The selection of these pilot jurisdictions will be made on the basis of a competitive review of a preliminary plan for developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to community-based alternatives, which will include consideration of the following:**

- A description of how the applicant (county, group of counties, community, or city/town) currently utilizes community-based alternatives, including a recent history of effort in delivering high-quality services that identifies any existing gaps in planning and delivery of services.
- A preliminary plan for developing and implementing a local governance structure to deliver effective community-based alternatives. *Applicants must include letter(s) of support from all other agencies that would be represented on workgroup and/or a list of all agencies that will be engaged in the effort.*
- A statement indicating the applicant's willingness to work cooperatively with and accept technical assistance from Illinois and National grantees of the Models for Change project.
- A statement of how the jurisdiction plans to develop and/or incorporate balanced and restorative justice practices into their approach to community-based alternatives.
- A description of what approaches, if any, are already in use to reduce secure confinement, including the use of notice or summons in lieu of warrants, and/or the reduction of violation of probation commitments.
- A statement of whether the applicant plans also to address the needs of youth with mental health needs and/or dually involved youth.

## MODELS FOR CHANGE INITIATIVE

### COMMUNITY -BASED ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION AND SECURE CONFINEMENT

*ILLINOIS APPLICATION FORM*

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Core team members' names and contact information (Please add more as appropriate):

1.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of designated team leader:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Authorized Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal:**

Attach proposal narrative and draft budget.

Return proposal to:

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